

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 254

By Trail

A RESOLUTION To recognize Judy Turner on the occasion of her retirement from Northfield Elementary School.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those outstanding teachers who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Judy Turner is one such estimable educator who has served with probity for many years in the Murfreesboro City Schools and distinguished herself as a professional of the utmost dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Wholly committed to the benefits of education all of her life, Mrs. Turner was the Floyd County Spelling Bee Champion as a young girl and Valedictorian of her 8th grade class; and

WHEREAS, She graduated from Maytown Consolidated High School as one of only two graduates in the school's 46-year history with a perfect grade point average, having been inspired by her grandfather's willingness to financially compensate her for each "A" received; and

WHEREAS, This multi-talented woman was a Cheerleader, Music Festival Queen, and Band member and was selected for the All-Regional Chorus in recognition of her angelic singing voice; and

WHEREAS, She began her college education as a Home Economics major at Berea College, but, making what she describes as the best choice of her life, she married Jack Justin Turner and transferred to the University of Kentucky, where she completed her degree and developed a lifelong devotion to her new husband and to the Kentucky Wildcats; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Turner was quickly noted to be a wonderful educator while student teaching at Bryan Station High School and was offered a permanent position at the school; she remained at the school for four years before her husband was offered a position at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Soon after moving to Tennessee, Judy Turner joined the staff of Murfreesboro City Schools, where she “fell in love with those little elementary students” and decided to pursue certification in elementary education from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, At Hobgood Elementary School, she taught 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades, all the time devoting her energies and love to many appreciative children; she was identified as an outstanding teacher by her accomplished principal, Frank Turner, and given the challenge of teaching Hobgood’s rambunctious 6th graders, a challenge which she eagerly accepted; and

WHEREAS, Displaying a knack for inspiring her students through untraditional methods, Mrs. Turner led her class in a week-long Outdoor Education experience offered by the Tennessee Valley Authority at the biologically-rich Land Between the Lakes, eagerly serving as a counselor, mentor, and confidant through energy-sapping hikes and canoe trips through swamps and streams; and

WHEREAS, Renewing her commitment to furthering her personal education in order to better serve her students, she earned a Master's Degree from MTSU while balancing a full teaching load; and

WHEREAS, Having earned the respect and admiration of her peers, Judy Turner was elected President of the Murfreesboro Education Association and also served as the first M-PACE Chairperson; and

WHEREAS, Recognized as a natural leader and chosen to help open Murfreesboro's first new school in many years, Mrs. Turner was given the assignment by Principal Mark Edwards of Northfield Elementary of leading a 6th grade team, and she also served as Student Council Advisor during the school's pivotal first two years; and

WHEREAS, At Northfield, Mrs. Turner came into contact with one especially wonderful young man, Herman Nelson, who deemed her "Mom" as she guided him through the early stages of a wonderful career in elementary education; and

WHEREAS, Renewing her commitment to expanding the horizons of her students, she helped lead educational trips to Europe and developed an Outdoor Education curriculum for the 6th grade at Northfield; and

WHEREAS, With a wealth of experience and wisdom, Judy Turner was noted by the state and national educational communities for her expertise and became in high demand to help lead public education into the new millenium; and

WHEREAS, She was chosen by the Tennessee Education Association to serve on, and later to head, the TEA Instruction and Professional Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, The National Education Association selected Mrs. Turner to serve on the Board of Evaluators for NCATE; she was chosen by NCATE as a consultant to help East Tennessee State University successfully regain accreditation and also astutely represented the State of Tennessee for eight years as a member of accreditation committees at universities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, Committed to the highest ideals of family values, she is most thankful for the great love and companionship that she shares with her husband, and she selflessly supported and cared for her aging father-in-law and her parents in their later years; and

WHEREAS, Judy Turner exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her estimable career, Mrs. Turner has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential; her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate enough to know her; and

WHEREAS, Having earned the respect and admiration of her peers and students alike, for her unsurpassed diligence in her duties and devotion to her students' education and well-being, Judy Turner was honored as Distinguished Classroom Teacher at Northfield and lauded in poetry by her colleagues, who recognized her devoted service and the reason that she was always "so tired" as she attempted to do more than her share of the work; and

WHEREAS, They declared: "We were lucky when Judy Turner was hired; many teachers and students she's inspired; but now that she's leaving; we all may be grieving; not hearing that sweet 'I'm so tired!'; we're sure glad Judy Turner was hired; and behaved well enough not to be fired; we'll miss her sweet face; her charm, wit, and grace; now that she'll soon be oh so retired!"; and

WHEREAS, Judy Turner truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend to Judy Turner our thanks for her laudable service to Murfreesboro's youth as an educator of the utmost ability and our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.